

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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## Cajuns for Bayou Teche fundraiser serves environmental cause

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality supports local programs and organizations that take voluntary steps to protect the environment. One organization, Cajuns for Bayou Teche, has continued to serve as a fine example of groups who work tirelessly to promote environmental stewardship in their communities.

Cajuns for Bayou Teche is a community organization that volunteers its time and boats in order to haul debris out of Bayou Teche in an ongoing cleanup effort. Currently, the organization is in need of a motor and additional fabrication work to assist in removing hot water heaters, washers and other large items from the bayou.

Cafe des Amis will host a fundraiser for Cajuns for Bayou Teche, a program of the Teche Ecology, Culture and History Education (TECHE) Project. Local musicians such as Bon Soir, Catin, Drew Landry and David Greely & Friends will be sharing their music in support of Cajuns for Bayou Teche. The fundraiser will be held at Café des Amis, in Breaux Bridge, 111 Washington St. in Breaux Bridge on Thursday, October 29 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. A donation of \$25 per attendee is appreciated. Cafe des Amis will also host a complimentary wine tasting event with hors d'oeuvres from 6:00-6:45. Their goal is to raise at least \$3,000 during the evening of the event.

"Last Spring, we hauled over six tons of metal, tires, bicycles and refrigerators from the Bayou. It's ridiculous what people throw in there," said Blake Couvillion, Director of Cajuns for Bayou Teche and President of the TECHE Project. "The Teche is a part of our lives and our heritage and that's how we treat it? We have water quality problems to address on the Teche and we also have to get some of this junk out of here," he said. "Right now, I have my eye on a stove that's been sitting there for years. Once the winch is ready to go and I have a reliable motor, my guys and I will get out there to pick it up and start hauling debris. We plan to work from Port Barre to St. Martinville."

The watershed coordinator from Acadiana RC&D, Kristen Kordecki, said, "The communities along Bayou Teche are paying attention to what Blake is doing. He is not only helping restore the aesthetics of the Teche, but also faith that we can achieve improved water quality in our bayous."

The community is invited to come out to meet with Blake and learn more about Bayou Teche. Tickets are available by calling Blake at 337-230-8596.